

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-22 remain pending in the present application. Claim 2 was previously cancelled. Claims 3-8, 10-17 were previously withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 9 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,448,728 (Takano) in view of US 2005/0162989 (Hwang '989) and US 2004/0042363 (Kobayashi). Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Applicant submits that the current combination of references fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103. The present application is a United States national phase application claiming the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of Korean patent application No. 10-2003-0045316, filed on July 4, 2003. Among the references cited, United States Patent Publication No. 2005/0162989 (Hwang '989) has an effective prior art date of December 23, 2004. Since the original PCT application was filed several months before this date on July 5, 2004, Hwang '989 does not represent prior art as against the present application. In addition, the original Korean application was filed almost 18 months before the prior art date for Hwang '989. As such, Hwang '989 may not be properly used by the Examiner in support of the combination of references used to reject claims 1, 9 and 18. As such, the current combination of references which rely, in part, on Hwang '989, fail to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takano in view of Hwang '989 and Kobayashi, and further in view of US 2004/0246852 (Hwang '852). Reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

For the reasons set forth above with regard to the combination of references used to reject independent claims 1 and 18, Applicant submits that the combination of references set forth by the Examiner in support of the rejections of claims 19-21 also fail to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103. As explained above, Hwang '989 was filed on December 23, 2004, which is several months after the filing date of the PCT application on which the present application relies for priority. As such, Hwang '989 does not represent prior art as against the present application. Accordingly, the combination of references set forth by the Examiner that rely, in part, on Hwang '989, fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

While Applicant has not addressed each and every interpretation and application of the references cited in support of the current rejections of each of the claims under §103(a), this should not be considered as an admission that Applicant concedes to the Examiner's position and reserves the right to traverse or otherwise challenge the Examiner's interpretation of these references applied either alone or in combination to reject the claims in the future as appropriate.

Request for Personal Interview

Should Applicant's remarks fail to place the application in immediate condition for allowance, Applicant hereby requests a personal interview with the Examiner to discuss any remaining issues prior to issuance of the next official action.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By: 

Terry L. Clark, Reg. No. 32,644
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

TLC:jce